

BROWN UNIVERSITY
TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVENTH
COMMENCEMENT



THE BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
2025

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN AMERICA
SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN AMERICA

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

Order of Service

GREETING OF THE DRUMS

Gendo Taiko
Drums of Mali

PRELUDE

Marche Triomphale
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Mark Steinbach
*University Organist and Distinguished
Senior Lecturer in Music*
Festival Brass and Timpani

BROWN UNIVERSITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BROWN LION DANCE TROUPE
“Lion Chant”
Shoji Kameda

***PROCESSION**
“Jupiter” from *The Planets*
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Mark Steinbach
Festival Brass and Timpani

***STANDARD BEARERS**
Kelly Wei '25 and Jazz Carlson '25
2025 Co-Presidents, 2025 Class Board

**PRESENTING THE ROSES
OF REMEMBRANCE***
These roses honor the lives of deceased
Brown students, faculty, and staff.
Julia Gugulski '25
Lina Legesse '25

WELCOME TO THE MEETING HOUSE*
Rev. Jamie Washam
Minister, The First Baptist Church in America

Christina H. Paxson
President, Brown University

GREETING FROM THE INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS*

From the Narragansett Peoples
Nkéke Waupianoohom Harris '25

HYMN*
Tune: “Hymn to Joy”
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Adapted by Edward Hodges
Text: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heav’n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee!

Mortals, join the mighty chorus;
Stars of morning, take your part;
Love divine is reigning o’er us,
Binding those of tender heart;
Ever singing, moving onward,
Loving in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

FROM HINDUISM
Śrī Guru-Gītā-Stotram (॥ श्रीगुरुगीता-
स्तोत्रम् ॥)
In Praise of the Guru
Swaraj Agarwal '25
Sarvesh Rajkumar '25

ॐ गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्वषिणुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः।
गुरुरेव परं ब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः॥१॥
अखण्डमण्डलाकारं व्याप्तं येन चराचरम्।
तत्पदं दर्शयति येन तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः॥२॥
अज्ञानतमिरान्धस्य ज्ञानाञ्जनशलाकया।
चक्षुरुन्मीलितं येन तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः॥३॥
चैतन्यं शाश्वतं शान्तं व्योमातीतं नरिञ्जनम्।
बन्दिनुनादकलातीतः तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः॥४॥
ब्रह्मानन्दं परमसुखदं केवलं ज्ञानमूर्तिं
द्वन्द्वद्वानीनं त्रिगुणरहितं
तत्त्वमस्यादलिक्ष्यम्।
एकं नित्यं वमिलमचलं सर्वधीसाक्षिभूतं
भावातीतं त्रिगुणरहितं सद्गुणं नमामः॥५॥

1. The Guru is Brahmā, the Guru is Viṣṇu, the
Guru is the great god Śiva. The
Guru alone is the Supreme Brahman. To him, the
Guru be my salutation.

2. By whom the entire universe, both the moving
and the unmoving is pervaded;
who is of the undivided form of the universe; to
the One who has revealed to
me that State — to that Guru be my salutation.

3. Who removes the darkness of ignorance, and
opens my eyes by applying the
collyrium of the Light of Knowledge — to that
Guru be my salutation.

4. Who is the eternally tranquil Consciousness,
spotless and pure, and beyond the
ether; who is untouched by the primal creative
forces (of bindu, nāda, kalā) —
to that Guru be my salutation.

5. Salutation to the true Guru, who is the
embodiment of the bliss of Brahman and
the bestower of supreme happiness, who is
detached, Knowledge personified
and beyond duality; who is like the sky, and is
indicated by such Vedic dicta as
“Thou art That,” and who is One, eternal, pure,
immovable in the buddhi,
beyond all states and devoid of the three guṇas —
to that Guru be my salutation.

FROM JUDAISM

“Gesher Tsar Me’od”

Baruch Chait

Words attributed to Rabbi Nachman of Breslov
The Alef Beats

Kol Ha'olam kulo
Gesher Tsar me'od
Gesher Tsar me'od
Gesher Tsar me'od —

Kol Ha'olam kulo
Gesher Tsar me'od —
Gesher Tsar me'od.

Veha'ikar — veha'ikar
Lo lefached —
lo lefached klal.
Veha'ikar — veha'ikar
lo lefached klal.

*As I walk along this very narrow bridge
I will not to be afraid —
Knowing you are with me.*

Psalms 121

Sophie Kieffer '25

שִׁיר לַמַּעֲלֹת אֲשֶׁר גִּידָה אֶל־הַרִים מֵאֵן יְבֵא לְזָרִי:
לְזָרִי מַעַם יְיָ עֲשֵׂה שִׁמּוֹם וְאֶרֶץ:
אֶל־יְתֵן לְמוֹט רֹגְלִי אֶל־יָמִים שְׂמֹרָה:
הִנֵּה לֹא יָגוּם וְלֹא יִשְׁעוּ שׂוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל:
יְיָ שְׂמֹרָה יְיָ בְּלֵיל לַלַּיִל וּבִיּוֹם:
יְיָ הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא יִכְסֶּה וְיָרֵחַ בְּלֵילָה:
יְיָ שְׂמֹרָה מִכֹּסֶּדֶת יִשְׁמֹר אֶת־נַפְשִׁי:
יְיָ שְׂמֹר־צִיָּהֶךָ וּבֹאֲךָ מִשְׁתָּה וְעַד־עֵינֶיךָ:

*A song for the ascents, I lift my eyes to the
mountains, from where does my help come?
My help is from the Eternal, Creator of the
heavens and the earth.*

*The One who will not let your foot stumble, your
Guardian never slumbers,
Wow, this One never slumbers nor sleeps, the
Guardian of Yisrael.*

*The Eternal is your Guardian, the Eternal is your
Protector at your right-hand side,
By day the sun will not harm you nor the moon
by night.*

*The Eternal will guard you from all evil, will keep
your lifebreath safe,
The Eternal will guard your coming out and your
returning home, from now until forever.*

The Shehecheyanu

Lara Jacobowitz '25

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
שְׁהַחֲיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעְנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of
all worlds, for giving us life, for sustaining us,
and for enabling us to reach this season.*

FROM CHRISTIANITY

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3–12a

Anthony Kang '25

Μακάριοι οἱ πτωχοὶ τῷ πνεύματι, ὅτι αὐτῶν
ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.
μακάριοι οἱ πενθοῦντες, ὅτι αὐτοὶ
παρακληθήσονται.
μακάριοι οἱ πραεῖς, ὅτι αὐτοὶ
κληρονομήσουσι τὴν γῆν.
μακάριοι οἱ πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες τὴν
δικαιοσύνην, ὅτι αὐτοὶ χορτασθήσονται.
μακάριοι οἱ ἐλεῆμονες, ὅτι αὐτοὶ
ἐλεηθήσονται.

μακάριοι οἱ καθαροὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ, ὅτι αὐτοὶ
τὸν θεὸν ὁψονται.
μακάριοι οἱ εἰρηνοποιοί, ὅτι αὐτοὶ υἱοὶ θεοῦ
κληθήσονται.
μακάριοι οἱ δεδιωγμένοι ἕνεκεν
δικαιοσύνης, ὅτι αὐτῶν ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία
τῶν οὐρανῶν.
μακάριοι ἐστε ὅταν ὀνειδίσωσιν ὑμᾶς καὶ
διώξωσιν καὶ εἴπωσιν πᾶν πονηρὸν καθ'
ὑμῶν ψευδόμενοι ἕνεκεν ἑμοῦ. χαίrete
καὶ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, ὅτι ὁ μισθὸς ὑμῶν πολὺς
ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς· οὕτως γὰρ ἔδωξαν τοὺς
προφῆτας τοὺς πρὸ ὑμῶν.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the
earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after
righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be
shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see
God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be
called the sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because
of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, because great is your
reward in heaven.*

Psalms 23 in the Languages of Our Families

Chinese

Jason Huang '25

主是我的牧者、使我不至窮乏。
使我臥在草地、領我到可安歇的水邊。
使我心裏甦醒、為他的名引導我走義路。
我雖過死蔭的幽谷、也不怕遭害、因主常在我
旁邊、你有杖有竿足安慰我。

Korean

Kevin Kim '25

주께서 내 원수들이 보는 가운데
나를 위해 잔치를 베푸시고

나를 귀한 손님으로
맞아 주셨으니
내 잔이 넘치는구나.
주의 선함과 한결같은 사랑이
평생에 나를 따를 것이니
내가 여호와와 그의 집에서
영원히 살리라.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he
leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with
oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever.*

ANTHEM

Bridge Lean Light Medley
Arranged by Sophia Stone
Harmonizing Grace Gospel Choir

FROM ISLAM

Quran 55:1-13
Hazem Abdel-Megid '25

الرَّحْمَنُ ۝ عَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ ۝ خَلَقَ الْإِنسَانَ ۝
عَلَّمَهُ الْبَيَانَ ۝ الشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ بِحُسْبَانٍ ۝
وَالنَّجْمُ بُسْجَانٍ ۝ وَالسَّاعَةَ رَفَعَهَا وَوَضَعَ الْبِيزَانَ ۝
أَلَّا تَطْغَوْا فِي الْبِيزَانِ ۝ وَأَقِيمُوا الزُّكُوفَ ۝ وَالْقَسْطَ ۝
وَلَا تُخْسِرُوا الْبِيزَانَ ۝ وَالْأَرْضَ وَضَعَهَا لِلْأَنَامِ ۝
فِيهَا فَاكِهَةٌ وَالنَّخْلُ ذَاتُ الْأَكْمَامِ ۝ وَاللَّهُ ذُو الْفَضْلِ
وَالْإِكْرَامِ ۝ يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنسَانُ ۝ إِنَّا زَكَّيْنَاكَ إِذْ بَدَأْنَا

*The All-Merciful God!
He alone has taught the Quran.
He alone has created man.
He alone has taught him expression.
The sun and the moon are in measured course;
the stars and the trees
bow down in submission.
As for the sky—it is He alone
who has raised it.
He set the balance of all things,
so that you might not
transgress the just balance.
You shall therefore establish
weights and measures with justice,*

*and you shall not by fraud
diminish the balance.
And as to the earth—it is He alone
who has laid it down for all living creatures.
Therein are abundant fruit
and date palms endowed with plenteous sheaths,
and grains of the husk, and sweet-scented herbs.
Then which of the favors of your Lord
will you deny?*

FROM CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITION

Bhagavad Gita 2:47–48
Rohan Kumaran '25

Sāṅkhya Yog
करमण्येवाधकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन |
मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ||
योगस्थः कुरु कर्माणि सङ्गं त्यक्त्वा धनञ्जय |
सिद्ध्यसिद्ध्योः समो भूत्वा समत्वं योग उच्यते ||

*You have a right to perform your prescribed
duties, but you are not entitled to the fruits of
your actions. Never consider yourself to be the
cause of the results of your activities, nor be
attached to inaction.
Be steadfast in the performance of your duty, O
Arjun, abandoning attachment to success and
failure. Such equanimity is called Yog.*

HONORING

REV. JANET M. COOPER NELSON
Sophie Kieffer '25
Our deep gratitude to the Rev. Janet M.
Cooper Nelson, Chaplain of Brown and
Director of the Office of the Chaplains and
Religious Life, who is retiring after 35 years of
service to the University.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Janet M. Cooper Nelson
Chaplain of the University

BROWN FAMILY NECROLOGY*

Koren Bakkegard
Associate Vice President for
Campus Life and Dean of Students
Janet A. Blume
Deputy Provost of the University
Rashid Zia
Dean of the College

ANTHEM AND DANCE

“Never Can Say Goodbye”
Jackson 5
Shades of Brown and
Fusion Dance Company

INTRODUCTION

Christina H. Paxson

ADDRESS

“Running Your Race with Purpose”
Allyson Felix

CELEBRATION

Gendo Taiko

ALMA MATER

Tune: “Araby’s Daughter”
George Kiallmark (1781-1835)
Text: *Alma Mater*
James Andrews DeWolf, Class of 1861

Alma Mater! We hail thee with loyal
devotion
And bring to thine altar our offering of
praise;
Our hearts swell within us with joyful
emotion
As the name of Old Brown in loud
chorus we raise.
The happiest moments of youth’s fleeting
hours
We’ve passed ’neath the shade of these
time-honored walls;
And sorrows as transient as April’s brief
showers
Have clouded our life in Brunonia’s halls.

*The congregation is asked to stand as able.



CLOSING BLESSING

Rev. Delphain Demosthenes
*Associate Chaplain of the University
for the Protestant Community*

*BENEDICTION

The podium party, led by Fr. Justin Bolger, O.P., *Associate Chaplain of the University for the Catholic Community*, with senior class responding:

Podium: The time has come to go forth.

Senior class: Our hearts are grateful for all we have learned.

Podium: This is a moment full of sorrow and joy.

Senior class: We celebrate the bonds of friendship, even as we bid farewell.

Podium: From this moment take courage for the days ahead.

Senior class: We embrace with hope all that awaits us.

Podium: Go now in peace and rejoicing, and may all your days be blessed. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL

“Grand Choeur in D”
Alexandre Guilman (1837-1911)
Mark Steinbach

The podium party precedes students.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

The Meeting House of the First Baptist Church in America, completed in 1775, was built “for the Publick Worship of Almighty God and also for holding Commencement in.” Central parts of the Brown Commencement ceremonies have been held here ever since. Moreover, during their tenure three Brown presidents were also ministers of this church, and all the presidents who held office between 1764 and 1937 were Baptist clergy.

Today’s Baccalaureate Service expresses our community’s gratitude in many languages of spirituality, and derives from the medieval European custom of presenting the candidates for the degree of bachelor with the laurels of sermonic oration.

In addition to the leaders of today’s service, the procession includes:
Brenda Ice, *Assistant Vice President for Residential and Community Living*, and
Asabe Poloma, *Associate Provost and Director, Office of Global Engagement*.



THE BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER

Allyson Felix
Olympic gold medalist

Five-time Olympian Allyson Felix is the most decorated American track and field athlete in history.

With a record 20 world championships and 11 Olympic medals, including seven golds, Felix retired in 2022, leaving a historic legacy in competitive running. In 2024, she was elected to the International Olympic Committee, the governing body of the Olympic Games.

An influential voice in women’s athletics, Felix publicly advocated for improved maternity policies in the sports apparel industry and helped spur maternity protections for sponsored athletes. Ahead of the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, she led an initiative to create the first-ever family space in the Olympic Village to support parent-athletes during the games.

Felix is the founder of Saysh footwear for women, a company that challenges traditional gendered sneaker design, and co-founder of Always Alpha, a women’s sports management firm. She serves as an ambassador for Right to Play, which supports underserved children across the world, and co-founded the Power of She Fund at the Women’s Sports Foundation to help provide childcare support for athletes who are mothers.

Felix earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern California. She and her husband live in Los Angeles with their two children.

IN MEMORIAM

The white roses on the podium honor the lives of beloved classmates whose degrees are being granted posthumously: Noah Mack '25.

The red roses on the podium honor beloved, departed Brown faculty and staff members, including:

Lundy Braun, *Professor Emerita of Medical Science and Professor Emerita of Africana Studies*; Alexander Brodsky, *Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (Research)*; David Bryte, *Physical Security Technician III, Public Safety Technology, OIT*; Joseph Chazan, *Clinical Professor Emeritus of Medicine*; Leon Cooper, *Professor Emeritus of Physics*; Robert Coover, *T.B. Stowell University Professor Emeritus of Literary Arts*; Dominic Corrigan, *Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine*; Robert Paul Davis, *Professor Emeritus of Medical Science*; Timothy Empkie, *Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine*; Eric Estes, *Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services, Campus Life*; Diane Felber, *Administrative Coordinator, School of Engineering*; Alison Field, *Professor of Epidemiology*; Alger Fredericks, *Assistant Professor of Surgery (Research)*; David Fortunato, *Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine*; Michael Martin, *Lead Grounds Worker, Facilities Management and Campus Operations*; Marco Martins, *Manager, Logistics Operations, Facilities Management and Campus Operations*; James R McCartney, *Associate Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Human Behavior*; Robert Meringolo, *Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of Medicine*; Paolo Migani, *Visiting Scholar in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biotechnology*; Steven Opal, *Clinical Professor of Medicine*; Calvin Oyer, *Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*; Vincent Pera, *Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine*; Diana Richardson, *Events Manager, BioMed Advancement*; Paul E. Sapir, *Clinical Assistant Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Human Behavior*; Jan Tullis, *Professor Emerita of Geological Sciences*; Harold Ward, *Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies*; Donna Wulff, *Professor Emerita of Religious Studies*.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Members of the Class of 2025 who received honors in Brown's spiritual life lead today's procession: Sophie Kieffer '25, *President James Manning Medal for Excellence in Scholarship and Practice of Religion*; Jason Huang '25, *The Gladys C. '40 and Sherwin J. '39 Kapstein Award for Interfaith Leadership*; and Lina Legesse '25 (Muslim Community), Julia Gugulski '25 (Brown-RISD Catholic Community), Rohan Kumaran '25 (Brown Meditation Community), Kevin Kim '25 (Protestant Community), and Lara Jacobowitz '25 (Brown RISD Hillel), *Levi C. Adams Citation for Leadership*.

FACULTY AND STAFF USHERS

Mayowa Ajibade, *Assistant Professor of Africana Studies*
Elsa Amanatidou, *Distinguished Senior Lecturer of Classics*
Lia Antico, *Postdoctoral Research Associate in Behavioral and Social Sciences and faculty member of Contemplative Studies*
Belinda Bachand, *Teaching Associate in Medical Science, The Warren Alpert Medical School*
Marisa Campbell, *Regional Development Director, Advancement*
Stacie Grant, *Executive Director, Brown University Sports Foundation, Advancement*
Françoise Hamlin, *Royce Family Associate Professor of Teaching Excellence in Africana Studies and History*
Nancy Jacobs, *Professor of History*
Mark Johnson, *Professor of Biology*
Alison Kiely, *Associate Director, Parent and Family Giving, Advancement*
Chris Macri, *Reunion Giving Officer, Advancement*
Ananda Martin-Caughey, *Assistant Professor of Sociology*
Kiana Murphy, *Assistant Professor of American Studies*
Susan Phillips, *Regional Development Associate, Advancement*
Stephanie Ravillon, *Senior Lecturer of French and Francophone Studies*
Maria Stringfellow, *Senior Leadership Giving Officer, Advancement*
Pauline Talbott, *Associate Director, Planned Giving, Advancement*
Kurt Teichert, *Senior Lecturer in Environment and Society*
Kimberly Turner, *Watson Postdoctoral Research Fellow*
Gary Wessel, *Professor of Biology*

THE ALEF BEATS

Josh Beresford
Melody Chen
Jason Covey
Sarine Dayan
Jordan Heinrich
Yujung Jang
Happy Ruth Jara
Jitpuwapat Mokkamakkul
Cerulean Ozarow
Samuel Salter
Jenna Serotta
Nadine Tendean
Maria Wang

THE DRUMS OF MALI

Seydou Coulibaly
Moussa Traoré

FESTIVAL BRASS AND TIMPANI

Dovas Lietuvninkas, trumpet
Bailey Paugh, trumpet
Jimmy Curto, tuba
Kevin Vergilio, trombone
David Rufino, horn
Michael Iadevaia, timpani

FUSION DANCE COMPANY

Aziza Alford
Karen Cai
Cheska Chiang
Keren Egu
McKenzie Green
Joyce Li
Celine Ma
Karis Ma
Mica Maltzman
Rya Vallabhaneni
Claire Yang
Natalie Zhu

GENDO TAIKO

Danny Castanheira
Sophia Chiu
Owen Cootey
Jedidiah Davis
Rei Guo
Jenn Huynh
Ethan Jiang

Daniel Kang
Ellie Kang
Micah Kohng
Joseph Maffa
Ray Mandel-Mueller
Fiona McGill
Julia Mei
Takaya Montez de Oca
Ayaka Ono
Emily Tom
Sophia Wang

HARMONIZING GRACE

Sophia Stone, *Director*
Jonathan Grice
Joshua Lapan
Danaye Martin
Kaleb Newman
Diane Rakotomalala

LION DANCE

Sophia Dewar
Richard Dong
Joanne Lee
Maggie Li
Alex Lim
Christian Lu
Amanda Sun
Minh Tran
Nancy Yao
Yongkuan Zhang

SHADES OF BROWN

Sophi Aronson
Eric Auguste
Joely Castillo
Natalia Delgado Banos
Surya Gopal
Bryce Gray
Alyse Harrell
Danaye Martin
Myrna Miguel Ortiz San
Sebastian Park
Seth Peiris
Zoe Plunkett
Cecilia Valenzuela